

# PHARMACY IN THE TWIN TERRITORIES

## PART 5 - PURCELL - EARLY PHARMACY ESTABLISHMENTS

Carl K. Buckner

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy

The town of Purcell, located in the Chickasaw Nation (Figure 1), was started in early 1887, when Robert Jeremiah Love rented or sold his wife's tribal allotment for town lots. At that time, track for connecting the Southern Kansas extension of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe with the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe railroads was being laid. The silver spike joining the two roads was driven at 11:10 a. m. on April 26, 1887, and the first passenger trains arrived on June 13

of that year. Beginning in early April, the town grew from a few tents to multiple residential and mercantile structures located close to the east-west oriented Main Street.<sup>1</sup>

### J. W. Hocker

On about April 8, 1887, James William "Billy" Hocker and his partner George C. Eisenmayer put a stock of general merchandise, including drugs, in a tent at Walnut Creek, close to the terminal of the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe railroad. They subsequently moved their merchandise into a new building at the corner of Main and Canadian (Figure 2). During the early months of 1887, Eisenmayer managed the store in Purcell while Hocker remained at his home in Gainesville, Texas, where he managed a wholesale and retail drug store. When Eisenmayer died on July 21, 1887, Hocker took over the operation in Purcell. In January, 1888, Hocker declared bankruptcy and his stock was sold at auction. He did not re-enter the drug business in Purcell.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 1. Chickasaw Nation. Modified from an 1892 map at the United States Library of Congress.

Billy Hocker was born on March 6, 1859, in McKinney, Collin County, Texas, a son of Philip S. and Loumira (Wilkerson) Hocker. Philip and Loumira moved the family to Monroe County, Missouri before 1868 and then to Centralia, Boone County, Missouri. Philip was listed as a druggist in the 1870 United States census. Billy graduated from the Kansas City Business College and the Chicago College of Pharmacy and entered the

**J. W. HOCKER & CO.**

ARE RECEIVING DAILY A

**LARGE STOCK**

—OF—

DRUGS, MEDICINES, PATENT MEDICINES, PAINTS, OILS, WINDOW GLASS, &c.

Their Stock will be the Largest in the Territory, and we look forward to a large

**Wholesale DRUG PAINT TRADE**

to be established at Purcell. They will always carry a stock adequate to the demand. Country Merchants will do well by learning their prices before going elsewhere.

Mr. Hocker is a graduate of

**PHARMACY**

and has had a large experience in both the wholesale and retail drug business.

He will be assisted in that department by his brother, Mr. Chas. Hocker, who has been associated with the drug business all his life.

And we bespeak success to the firm and especially to that branch of their business.

Figure 2. Advertisement by J. W. Hocker. From Purcell Register, December 10, 1887.

drug business in Centralia before 1880. He continued that line of work after moving to Gainesville before 1887.<sup>3</sup>

After his stock was sold at bankruptcy in 1888, Billy started practicing law and established a law office in Purcell. He was appointed United States Commissioner in 1889, but was removed from the office in 1890 on charges that he was an unethical intruder in the Chickasaw Nation.<sup>4</sup> Afterward, he practiced law for several years in Purcell and, in 1911, was installed as President of the Oklahoma State Bar Association.<sup>5</sup> Hocker died on November 23, 1938, after moving to Oklahoma City.<sup>6</sup>

### H. B. Campbell

Hugh “Huff” Boling Campbell and his partner A. Raymond Farmer, established a drug store on the south side of Main Street in Purcell in November of 1887 (Figure 3). Huff Campbell was a brother-in-law of Simon Gavagan and worked as a pharmacist at Gavagan’s drug store in Muskogee from May of 1883 until he entered into a partnership with Ray Farmer in the drug store in Purcell. Campbell bought Farmer’s interest in the store in early 1890 and the establishment became known as H. B. Campbell’s Drug Store.<sup>7</sup>

Huff Campbell was born on March 18, 1854, in Morgan County, Alabama, a son of William and Eliza Campbell. Hugh’s father was born in Tennessee and moved to Somerville, Alabama, in about 1850 where he established a law office. Huff met his wife, Kate

**FARMER & CAMPBELL,**  
**Druggists.**

We keep everything kept in a First-Class Drug Store, and sell as cheap as goods of the same quality can be sold.

—WE HAVE A FULL STOCK OF—

**Pure Drugs, Toilet Articles, Fancy goods, patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Varnishes and Brushes.**

**PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY COMPOUNDED.**

**South-side Main St. PURCELL, IND. TER.**

Figure 3. Advertisement by Farmer and Campbell. From Purcell Register, November 23, 1887.

Hanning, when he was working for Simon Gavagan in Muskogee. Kate was a sister of Simon’s wife, Josephine Hanning. Huff and Kate were married on October 18, 1887, at her home in Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky, and moved to Purcell shortly after their wedding.<sup>8</sup>

Soon after opening the drug store in Purcell, Huff introduced “Campbell’s Chill Tonic.” This product was claimed to be of his own formulation and

**The Master of Chills....**

We have known “CAMPBELL’S CHILL TONIC” since 1887, some of us having taken it almost every year from that time to this date, and we unhesitatingly say we regard it as being far superior to any and all other chill tonics we have ever known anything about. We have never known it to fail in a single case, when taken as directed to cure the chills. It is the cheapest and best, because only one bottle gives speedy relief and effects a permanent cure.

We give our endorsement, not merely because it has been asked, but as a true testimonial to the merits of the medicine. Take it; one bottle will cure you.

H. H. SEWELL,	FRANK PIKE,
T. C. WOODS,	W. G. BLANCHARD,
W. H. DOWNARD,	G. W. SPARKS,
JOE W. FAULL,	E. M. EDGE,
JAMES COBB,	R. L. FOSTER,
ALEX SACRA,	MIKE SUCHY,
J. W. MARCUM,	JAMES CAMDON.

Purcell, I. T., August 18, 1905.

Prepared only by **H. B. Campbell & Bro. Purcell, I. T.**

**Inquire of your Druggist.**

Figure 4. Advertisement for Campbell’s Chill Tonic, a product of H. B. Campbell & Bro. From Purcell Register, September 22, 1905.



available in multiple drug stores in the territory. The Chill Tonic was promoted more vigorously after Huff's brother, Alexander, became a partner in the store (Figure 4). A soda fountain was installed in the store in May of 1888.<sup>9</sup>

In the summer months of 1894, Huff considered the possibility of purchasing the drug store interests of Ross Shackelford in his old home town of Muskogee. William Owen eventually bought Shackelford's interest and Huff looked elsewhere for expansion opportunities.<sup>10</sup> In March of 1895, Huff moved his frame building, located on the south side of Purcell's Main Street, into the street and began building a new brick structure in its place. He continued doing business in the street during construction of his new drug store space and moved into his new building in July of that year. Unfortunately, a fire in the business district of Purcell in November of 1895, destroyed his new store, forcing another building effort.<sup>11</sup>

Huff was one of the early registered pharmacists in the Indian Territory. On October 18, 1904, he was issued pharmacist certificate number 44 by the newly created Indian Territory Board of Pharmacy.<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, his tenure as a licensed pharmacist was short-lived as he died a year later, on October 27, 1905. He was one of the pioneer town builders in Purcell, having served several terms as alderman. In 1906, his brother Alexander purchased the drug store interests of Huff and another brother, Leslie.<sup>13</sup>

### **G. F. and C. C. Jones**

George Filmore Jones (Figure 5, top) decided to start a drug store in Purcell while visiting his future brother-in-law, W. R. Orme, in the early months of 1888. The G. F. Jones Drug Store (Figure 6) opened in town in July of that year. Soon thereafter, the Farmer's Alliance of Pontotoc County, Indian Territory, reported that the G. F. Jones store in Purcell was the cheapest place to buy drugs. George's brother, Charles "Charley" Clayton



*Figure 5. George F. and Minnie Jones (top) and Charles C. and Jennie Jones (bottom). From McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, Purcell, Oklahoma.*

Jones (Figure 5, bottom), arrived in Purcell around the time of the opening of the drug store and soon became George's partner in the enterprise.<sup>14</sup>

George and Charley were born in New London, Ralls County, Missouri, sons of Michael Jackson and Emily (Alford) Jones. George was born on November 16, 1856, and Charley on August 15, 1859. They attended school in New London before moving to Texas. The Michael Jones family moved from Missouri to a farm near Whitesboro, Grayson County, Texas, in the spring of 1877. George's first wife, Belle Foster, died on November 1, 1886. She and George had one son, Everett, who became a practicing physician in Wichita Falls, TX.<sup>15</sup>

On October 15, 1889, Charley married Jennie Van Antwerp in Pottsboro, Grayson County, Texas. She



**G. F. JONES,**

Dealer in

**Drugs and Chemicals,**

PATENT MEDICINES.

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Filling prescriptions and family Receipts a specialty.

Headquarters for fine cigars.

East-side of Canadian ave., Purcell, Ind. Ter.

Figure 6. Advertisement by George Filmore Jones. From Purcell Register, September 1, 1888.

was a daughter of Peter Simon and Mary Ann (Bearcroft) Van Antwerp. On March 9, 1890, George married Jennie's sister, Minnie Van Antwerp Lloyd, in Oklahoma City. The Peter Simon Van Antwerp family had moved to Oklahoma City during the run for unassigned lands of Indian Territory on April 22, 1889. Minnie's first husband had also died in Texas and she came to Oklahoma City with her family.

As was the custom in nineteenth century drug stores, the Jones brothers shared their store space with a jeweler. The first jeweler to locate in the Jones Drug Store was George H. Norman. In 1892, a new jeweler, Benton Clyde Clark, moved to Purcell. B. C. Clark first established his jewelry business in the Racket Store and then, in 1895, in the Jones Drug Store. Clark remained associated with the Jones brothers (Figure 7) until October of 1900 when he opened his own jewelry store in Purcell. He would eventually become an icon of the jewelry business in Oklahoma.<sup>16</sup>

The Jones Drug Store in Purcell was forced to close on April 2, 1902, as a result of a court issued "writ of execution" based on a suit originated by a physician, J. H. Colby, who occupied space in the store. The financial dispute between the parties was settled in the favor of Colby and the Jones brothers were not able to reopen their store. B. C. Clark bought the soda fountain from the Jones Drug Store and placed it in his jewelry store, where it was operated in the summer of 1902 by Charley Jones. The Jones brothers subsequently pursued other avenues of income separately, but remained in Purcell. George and Charley died in Purcell in 1936, on July 13 and November 22, respectively.<sup>17</sup>

**J. M. Steade, A. A. Dunn, and J. S. Childs**

James Milton Steade (Figure 8) was born on June 30, 1861, in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas, the only child of Frank and Tallie (Young) Steade. His parents divorced



There are others, but—

# Competition Knocked Out!

I have just received the **BIGGEST** and **FINEST** line of **HOLIDAY GOODS** ever before shown in my line in this part of the country. I AM HERE TO SELL GOODS and PLEASE MY CUSTOMERS.

I HAVE COME TO STAY and  
**Will not be undersold by anyone.**

I have the goods and they must be sold.

Remember my terms will be  
**CASH.**

I will not try to compete the many **STICK** and **SHUFL** House-Flave. Just come around and see for yourself.



"DEAR OLD SANTA, BUY MY PRESENTS AT CLARK'S"

**Rings**

"TILL YOU CAN'T REST, and at PRICES THAT DEFY COMPE- TITION. If you are thinking of sending for a

**Watch,**

bring your catalogue and the money along and you will go home wearing a watch in your pocket and a smile on your face, and will tell your neighbors that CLARK'S JEWEL- RY STORE

**Is the place above all other places to buy a watch.**

FINEST TABLE- WARE. PRETTIEST MAR- BLE AND ONYX CLOCKS. NICE BOHEMIAN GLASSWARE. FINE CHINAWARE.

**Do Not Be Deceived by Other Jeweler's Assertions.**

Yours for Trade,

## B. C. CLARK.

In Jones' Drug Store.



Figure 7. Christmas advertisement by the jeweler, B. C. Clark, located in Jones Drug Store. From Purcell Register, December 9, 1897.





Figure 8. James Milton Steade. From H. F. O'Beirne, 1891.(Reference 18)

# New Drug Store!

Have you been to

## STEADE & SULLIVANT'S DRUG STORE?

If so, this advertisement is not for you, as you already know they keep the best lines of Drugs, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Perfumery, Soaps, all kinds Stationery, and Cigars. In fact everything kept in a first-class drug store.

Prescriptions Carefully Compounded Day Or Night.

Call and be convinced.

Yours Respectfully,  
Steade & Sullivant.

Figure 9. Advertisement by Steade and Sullivant for their new drug store in Purcell. From Purcell Register, October 20, 1888.

soon after he was born and, at the age of fifteen, James ventured into “No Man’s Land,” currently the panhandle of the state of Oklahoma, where he worked as a ranch hand. In the mid-1880s, he was able to find his father in Johnsonville, Chickasaw Nation, and decided to settle in this region of Indian Territory. In 1887, James graduated from the American Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio, married Mella Thill in that city, and moved to Purcell.<sup>18</sup>

In Purcell, James established his physician’s office on the north side of Main Street. The following year, he entered into a short-lived partnership with L. R. Sullivant in the practice of medicine and in a drug store in Purcell. Their joint medical practice started in September of 1888 and their drug store (Figure 9) in mid-October of that year. On November 6, 1888, Sullivant bought Steade’s interest in the drug store and continued as sole proprietor.<sup>19</sup>

Alfred Allen Dunn was the second of Steade’s partners in Purcell. He came to Purcell in 1889 from Thackerville, Chickasaw Nation, where he was practicing medicine and operating a drug store. Alfred was of Choctaw descent, born on May 22, 1860, in Choctaw County, Alabama. His father, William Marshall Dunn, was a physician who married Selina Colwell Yates, a member of the Choctaw Nation. Alfred received

his early education in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi, before moving in 1876 with his family to Atoka, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory. Following his father’s lead, Alfred attended the University of Louisville Medical School in Kentucky, completing the first year in March of 1887. After returning to Atoka for a short time, Alfred established his practice at Thackerville.<sup>20</sup>

Alfred’s move to Purcell in the spring of 1889 was soon followed by the establishment of a partnership with James Steade in the practice of medicine and the operation of a drug store. Their partnership in a new drug store in town was firmly established soon after Alfred arrived. He took a trip to Kansas City in late January and early February of 1890 for the purpose of buying their drug stock, which was in place on the north side of Main Street (Figures 10 and 11) in early March. Alfred formally withdrew from the partnership in January of 1891 to devote his time to his medical practice and extensive farming activities.<sup>21</sup>

After Dunn withdrew from the partnership with Steade, the drug store became known under a different name. A new partner, J. S. Childs, bought into the Dunn & Steade Drug Store in November of 1890. At that time, the name of the store was changed from Dunn & Steade to Dunn, Steade & Co. (Figure 12). After



Figure 10. Stores on north Main Street, Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, 1890. Standing on the porch of the Dunn & Steade Drug Store, from left, are A. A. Dunn, J. S. Childs, Rastus Bird, and J. M. Steade. Charley Jones is on the right. From McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, Purcell, Oklahoma.

Dunn retired, advertisements for the drug store used the name of Steade & Childs (Figure 13).<sup>22</sup>

Joseph Story Childs (Figure 14) was born on October 16, 1846, in Vermont. When Joseph was a small child, his parents, Thomas and Mary Childs, moved the family to New York City where Thomas practiced law. While still a teenager, Joseph joined the United States Navy and served at New Orleans with David G. Farragut during the American Civil War. After receiving an honorable discharge from the service in 1865, Joseph returned to New York and worked as an apothecary. In 1884, he moved to Cincinnati,

Ohio, where he studied medicine, graduating from the American Eclectic Medical College of Ohio in 1886. He moved to Oklahoma City on April 22, 1889, the day of the run for unassigned lands of the Indian Territory, and began practicing medicine.<sup>23</sup>

In Purcell, Childs continued the practice of medicine in addition to becoming part owner of a drug store. Steade withdrew from the drug store partnership in March of 1891, and Childs became sole proprietor (Figure 15). He operated the drug store with the help of several drug clerks, including Adolph Thill, brother-in-law of J. M. Steade, and J. B. Westbrook, a pharmacist he met on his first day in Oklahoma City.<sup>24</sup>

FRESH		DRUGS!
AT THE NEW DRUG STORE!		
Our motto is to keep <b>THE BEST</b> at reasonable prices.		
Fine Toilet Goods, Sundries, Cigars,		
TOBACCOS, ETC., ETC.		
DRS. DUNN & STEADE.		
PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS,		
NORTH SIDE MAIN ST., PURCELL, I. T.		

Figure 11. Advertisement by Dunn and Steade for their new drug store in Purcell. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), April 3, 1890.

Steade and Childs remained as partners in the practice of medicine after Childs took over at the drug store. However, by July of 1892, Childs sold the drug store to another physician, W. H. Reed (Figure 16). Reed came to Purcell from Kansas City, Missouri, where he had been in the drug business. After operating the store for just a few months, he became a partner with J. J. Wiggs, who, in early 1893, purchased the Purcell drug store belonging to E. W. Murray. Wiggs moved to Purcell from Little Rock, Arkansas, where he was in the wholesale and retail drug trade. The two merged their drug stocks in February of 1893 to create Wiggs, Reed & Co. (Figure 17). Later in 1893, Wiggs bought the



Dr. A. A. DUNN.

Dr. J. M. STEADE.

Dr. J. S. CHILDS.

# Dunn, Steade & Co. **DRUGGISTS!**

Keep the finest line of fresh and pure Drugs, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Perfumeries, etc.

**Paints, Oils, Varnishes and Brushes,**  
ARTISTS' MATERIALS, ETC.

Have just received an immense stock of

## **NICE HOLIDAY GOODS**

CONSISTING OF

Plush Goods, Fine Lamps, Decorated China, Books, Pictures, and Toys of every description.

## **Presents for Old & Young**

AT BED ROCK PRICES.

**PURCELL,**

-

**IND. TER.**

Figure 12. Advertisement by Dunn, Steade and Childs. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), November 20, 1890.

J. M. STEADE, M. D. J. S. CHILDS, M. D.

# Stead & Childs,

—DEALERS IN—

## Drugs and Medicines.

We keep a complete stock of fancy and toilet articles, paints, oils, brushes, stationery, artists supplies, cigars and tobaccos, and everything carried by a first-class drug house.

The finest line of toilet soap and perfumery ever brought to the city, also the

**Finest line of Lamps in the Territory.**

North Side Main Street - Purcell Indian Territory.

Figure 13. Early advertisement by Steade & Childs. From *Purcell Register*, January 10, 1891.

## DR. J. S. CHILDS,

SUCCESSOR TO STEAD & CHILDS.  
DEALER IN

## Drugs & Medicines

NORTH SIDE OF MAIN STREET,  AT PURCELL, IND. TERRITORY.

We keep a complete stock of Fancy and Toilet articles. Paints, Oils, Brushes, Stationery, Artists' supplies, Cigars and Tobaccos and everything carried by a first-class drug house.

The finest line of Toilet soap ever brought to the city, also the

**FINEST LINE OF LAMPS IN THE TERRITORY.**

Figure 15. Advertisement by J. S. Childs. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), March 26, 1891.

interest of Reed and the store became J. J. Wiggs & Co. (Figure 18). In late 1893, Wiggs sold his drug stock to other druggists in Purcell and returned to Little Rock. This sale heralded the end of the drug store lineage started by A. A. Dunn and J. M. Steade in 1890.<sup>25</sup>

The Steade and Childs partnership in the practice of medicine continued until October of 1892, when Steade moved his family to Cincinnati.<sup>26</sup> In 1894, he graduated from the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery and moved to San Diego, California, where he continued his medical practice. J. M. Steade died in San Diego on February 24, 1921. A. A. Dunn died on November 12, 1901, after being taken to the Fort Worth, Texas, hospital. J. S. Childs died in Purcell on January 20, 1915.



Figure 14. Joseph Story Childs. From Dewitz, 1905.(reference 23)

### J. M. Remington

John Marvin Remington (Figure 19), known as “Rem,” was born on December 5, 1862, near Norborne, Carroll County, Missouri. In 1873, Rem’s parents, Marvin and Julia (Leftwich) Remington, moved from their Missouri farm to a farm in Wilson County, Kansas, southwest of the town of Humboldt. A short time later, Rem went back to Missouri and attended public school in Independence, Jackson County. He enrolled in Woodland College in Independence for two years and then, in 1878, started working as a clerk in a drug store in his home town of Norborne. Before moving to Purcell in the fall of 1888, Rem acquired experience in drug stores in Parsons and Mulvane, Kansas, and in Kansas City.<sup>27</sup>

In Purcell, Rem opened a the J. M. Remington Drug Store as sole proprietor, replacing the drug store of L. R. Sullivant. In 1889, Rem entered into a partnership with Emerson Melville Whitney and the enterprise was known as J. M. Remington & Company. In early 1890, Whitney’s interest in the drug store was purchased by Solon Curtice, who came from Mulvane, Kansas, where he had previously known Rem. Solon arrived in Purcell on January 26, 1890, and the first advertisement for the Remington & Curtice Drug Store



**DR. W. H. REED,**  
 SUCCESSOR TO DR. J. S. CHILDS.  
 DEALER IN

## Drugs & Medicines

We keep a complete stock of Fancy and Toilet Articles, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Stationery,  Artist's Supplies, Cigars and Tobaccos, and every-thing carried by a first-class Drug House. The finest line of Toilet Soaps ever brought to the city, also the finest line of lamps in the Territory.

*North Side Main Street, Purcell, Indian Territory.*

Figure 16. Advertisement by W. H. Reed, successor to J. S. Childs. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), January 12, 1893.

**Wiggs, Reed & Co**  
 SUCCESSORS TO DR. J. S. CHILDS.  
 DEALER IN

## Drugs & Medicines

We keep a complete stock of Fancy and Toilet Articles, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Stationery,  Artist's Supplies, Cigars and Tobaccos, and every-thing carried by a first-class Drug House. The finest line of Toilet Soaps ever brought to the city, also the finest line of lamps in the Territory.

*North Side Main Street, Purcell, Indian Territory.*

Figure 17. Advertisement by Wiggs, Reed & Co., second successor to J. S. Childs. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), July 27, 1893.

**J. J. Wiggs, & Co.**  
 SUCCESSORS TO DR. J. S. CHILDS.  
 DEALER IN

## Drugs & Medicines

We keep a complete stock of Fancy and Toilet Articles, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Stationery,  Artist's Supplies, Cigars and Tobaccos, and every-thing carried by a first-class Drug House. The finest line of Toilet Soaps ever brought to the city, also the finest line of lamps in the Territory.

*North Side Main Street, Purcell, Indian Territory.*

Figure 18. Advertisement by J. J. Wiggs & Co., third successor to J. S. Childs. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), September 7, 1893.

(Figure 20) appeared in *The Territorial Topic* on February 6, 1890.<sup>28</sup>

During the land run days in 1889, Rem acquired a homestead just across the Canadian River from Purcell, near the new town of Lexington. Consequently, he developed an interest in establishing a drug store in Lexington. In the fall of 1890, the Remington & Curtice partnership began construction of a new building in Lexington to house a drug store. The building was completed and stocked with drugs in November of that year. For about six months, Remington & Curtice operated the stores in Purcell and Lexington jointly. However, by mid-May of 1891, the partnership was dissolved with Rem keeping the Lexington store and Curtice the Purcell store. Rem's move to Lexington was completed by the end of May.<sup>29</sup>

On Monday, February 23, 1891, Rem made a trip to Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, where he applied to become a registered pharmacist. His application was presented at the first session of the newly created Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy, which subsequently gave Rem pharmacist certificate number 4. After Oklahoma statehood, Rem was issued pharmacist certificate number 1176 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. Between those two events, Rem became an active member of the Oklahoma Territory Pharmaceutical Association, serving the organization as president in 1904. In addition, beginning in April of 1894, he served for two years as a member of the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy, becoming president of the board in his final year.<sup>30</sup>

Rem did not remain long in Lexington. Before the September 23, 1891, opening of the Sac and Fox/Iowa/Kickapoo/Shawnee/Potawatomi lands, he started to build a drug store at Burnett, located between Lexington and the soon-to-be



Figure 19. J. M. Remington, 1899. From OPhA files.

J. M. REMINGTON.
SOLON CURTICE

## REMINGTON & CURTICE,

DRUGGISTS

PHARMACISTS

Wall Paper, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Window Glass,  
TOILET ARTICLES, PATENT MEDICINES,  
MAIN STREET, - PURCELL. - IND. TER.

Figure 20. Advertisement by J. M. Remington and Solon Curtice after the latter succeeded E. M. Whitney as partner with Remington. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), March 13, 1890.

town of Tecumseh. Instead, he made the land run on September 23, staked a claim, and opened one of the first drug stores in Tecumseh. For a brief period of time after opening in Tecumseh, Rem kept his drug store in Lexington. However, in early November of 1891, he moved the drug stock from Lexington back to Purcell. In January of 1892, he moved the stock from Purcell to Tecumseh, where he remained before moving on several occasions to Perry, Chandler, Shawnee, and Oklahoma City. He died in Shawnee on December 8, 1914.<sup>31</sup>

### Solon Curtice

Solon Curtice was born in Washington County, Iowa in August of 1863, soon after his parents, John and Katherine (Hicks) Curtice, moved from Indiana to a farm near Clay Township. He later moved back to Indiana and, at the time of the 1880 census, was living with his mother, a sister, and a brother in Jefferson Township, Jay County, Indiana. Not long afterward, he went to Mulvane, Kansas, where he met J. M. Remington.<sup>32</sup>

After the partnership between Solon Curtice and J. M. Remington dissolved, Solon continued the drug store at the same location in Purcell (Figure

21). Solon married Eva Cole in 1888 in Mulvane and she arrived in Purcell from there in February of 1890. Perhaps as she had done in Mulvane, Eva helped out by working in the drug store. She was one of the early students of pharmacy at The University of Oklahoma in Norman, taking the first year of courses beginning in September of 1894. In May of 1895, she left the program and started working as a prescription clerk in the Curtice Drug Store in Purcell. After the Indian Territory Board of Pharmacy was formed in 1904, Solon and Eva were given pharmacist certificate numbers 51 and 1050, respectively. At the time of Oklahoma statehood, the respective certificate numbers given them by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy were 143 and 145.<sup>33</sup>

Prescriptions Carefully Compounded

Solon Curtice,

DRUGS,  
MEDICINES,  
PAINTS,  
Toilet Articles,

## THE DRUGGIST!

Perfumery,  
Cigars,  
Etc., Etc.

FINEST LINE OF WALL-PAPER IN THE CITY.

SOUTH SIDE MAIN STREET, PURCELL, IND. TER

Figure 21. Advertisement by Solon Curtice after the partnership with Remington was dissolved. From *Purcell Register*, September 11, 1891.



Our stock is too large to give in detail. We merely want you to know that our store, the largest drug store in McClain County, is filled, as it has been for the past ten years, with a new stock of

**CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY BARGAINS**

We will be glad to show you our goods, and give you prices.

**Baird & Stone,**

CURTICE'S OLD STAND

Figure 22. Advertisement by R. C. Baird and R. M. Stone, successors to Solon Curtice. From *Purcell Register*, December 9, 1909.

The Curtice Drug Store was also a victim of the November, 1895, fire in Purcell. After the store was destroyed by the fire, Solon re-opened in temporary space in the Houghton building. As a means of replenishing his drug stock, Solon bought the Albert F. Masterman drug store in El Reno, Oklahoma Territory, in April of 1896. It was operated in El Reno for about a month by Curtice's prescription clerk, Ed A. Estes, before it was closed and the stock moved to Purcell. A new building to house the Curtice Drug Store in Purcell was completed in the fall of 1898.<sup>34</sup>

In June of 1909, Solon sold the drug store to Rudolph Cathelcaide Baird, a son of Solon's sister Mary, and R. M. Stone. At that time, the store became known as the Baird & Stone Drug Store (Figures 22 and 23). Solon and Eva Curtice moved the family to Grant's Pass, Josephine County Oregon, where Eva died on October 13, 1911, just after the birth of their third child, Dorothy. Solon and the surviving children returned to Oklahoma in 1913 and settled in Edmond, where he owned a drug store. He died in Edmond on May 7, 1918, and his drug store was purchased later that year by W. R. Sieg.<sup>35</sup>

### Adolph Thill

Another drug store in Purcell during the territorial period was the Palace Drug Store (Figures 24 and 25), which was owned and operated by Adolph Thill, a brother-in-law of J. M. Steade. Adolph came to the Chickasaw Nation in 1888 and worked as a drug clerk in Purcell, including in the drug stores of Dunn & Steade, J. S. Childs, Solon Curtice, and H. B. Campbell. He was

said to have been a graduate of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy.<sup>36</sup>

In September of 1892, Adolph opened his own drug store in Lexington, but a fire in the business district destroyed the store in June of 1893. By late September of 1893, Adolph was again in the drug business, this time as proprietor of the Palace Drug Store in Purcell. The Palace Drug Store survived until the November, 1895, fire in Purcell, resulting in a \$2500 loss to Thill, who carried \$1,000 insurance.<sup>37</sup>

After the fire destroyed the Palace Drug Store in Purcell, Adolph Thill worked on his farm near Noble in Oklahoma Territory, managed the Tom Ward Saloon for a month in early 1896, and was Constable for a period of time before moving, on July 27, 1905, to join other members of his family in San Diego, California. In San Diego, Thill engaged in the furniture business and died in Fresno County, California, on May 30, 1927.<sup>38</sup>

Unlike Muskogee, Purcell did not develop into a large urban city. Even though it was well situated on the South Canadian River and became a convenient hub for travel and business, its growth was slow and the number of drug stores that could be supported by the population was small. The town was not centrally located in the Indian Territory and, after the 1889 run for homesteads in the unassigned land, the proximity of Purcell to the boom town of Oklahoma City detracted from a more rapid growth. Consequently, the pharmacy profession did not grow in Purcell as it did in other more populous regions of what would become the state of Oklahoma.



Figure 23. Interior of Curtice Drug Store in Purcell, ca. 1910, after it was purchased by R. C. Baird and R. M. Stone. From McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, Purcell, Oklahoma.

# PALACE DRUG STORE, NORTH SIDE MAIN STREET. PURE — DRUGS,

Patent Medicines, Perfumery, Toilet Articles, Toilet Soap,  
and everything kept in a first-class Drug Store. Great  
care given in

-- COMPOUNDING PRESCRIPTIONS --

Prescriptions Filled at All Hours During the Night.

Our stock of drugs is new and consequently pure and reliable.

ADOLPH THILL, Manager.

Figure 24. Advertisement for Thill's Palace Drug Store in Purcell. From *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), October 5, 1893.





Figure 25. Stores on north Main Street, Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, ca. 1894. The proprietor of the Palace Drug Store was Adolph Thill, brother-in-law of James Milton Steade. B. C. Clark's jewelry store was inside the Racket Store next to the Palace Drug Store. From McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, Purcell, Oklahoma.

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## Notes and References

<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of Purcell can be found in David C. Gideon, *Indian Territory*, (Chicago, Lewis Publishing Company, 1901): 199-200; Joyce A. Rex, Editor, *McClain County, Oklahoma: History and Heritage*, (Purcell, McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1986), Volumes 1, 2, and 3; and *The Dallas Morning News*, May 1, 1887.

<sup>2</sup> *Purcell Register*, December 3, 1887; *ibid.*, January 21, 1888.

<sup>3</sup> United States census records; *Purcell Register*, March 30, 1893; C. A. Hocker family tree at Rootsweb.com.

<sup>4</sup> Complaints that Hocker was a swindler and an intruder in the Chickasaw Nation were filed on several occasions by Leo E. Bennett, United States Indian Agent. Nevertheless, Hocker remained as a resident and lawyer in Purcell for a number of years thereafter. Examples of charges against Hocker as well as the recommendation that he be removed from his position as United States Commissioner can be found in

The Executive Documents of the Senate of the United States for the First Session of the Fifty-First Congress, 1889-1890. Document 219. (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1890): 78-87. The *Purcell Register* for December 13, 1890, noted that Hocker resigned his position as Commissioner.

<sup>5</sup> *Daily Oklahoman*, December 23, 1911; Proceedings of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma State Bar Association (Oklahoma City, December 21-22, 1911): 82.

<sup>6</sup> *Daily Oklahoman*, November 27, 1938. Billy Hocker is buried in the IOOF Cemetery at Norman, Oklahoma.

<sup>7</sup> *Purcell Register*, November 15, 1890; *ibid.*, November 3, 1905. Information about Simon Gavagan's Drug Store in Muskogee can be found in earlier issues of *Oklahoma Pharmacist*.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*; United States census records; *Purcell Register*, November 17, 1905; *ibid.*, May 4, 1906.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, May 19, 1888.

<sup>10</sup> William Ross Shackelford was a partner with Lee A. Barry before the latter sold his interest to William Owen in May of 1894. By December of 1894, Owen had purchased Shackelford's interest to become sole proprietor of the store. Carl K. Buckner, *Oklahoma Pharmacist*, 77 (Number 1, 2009): 18. Huff Campbell's interest in the Muskogee store was reported in *Purcell Register*, July 27, 1894, and August 3, 1894.

<sup>11</sup> *Purcell Enquirer*, April 25, 1895; *ibid.*, August 1, 1895; *Purcell Register*, August 2, 1895. The result of the fire in Purcell was reported in *Purcell Enquirer*, November



21, 1895. During the rebuilding process, Huff conducted business in a small room in the Eckhardt school building on west Main Street. Purcell Register, December 6, 1895; Purcell Enquirer, December 5, 1895. He later moved his drug stock to the Fox building on west Main and then to the Wells Building at Main and Second streets. Purcell Register, December 13, 1895; *ibid.*, January 24, 1896. In April of 1896, Huff moved into his newly rebuilt drug store containing an 8 foot high wall soda fountain of marble and onyx with silver trimming. Purcell Enquirer, April 30, 1896; Purcell Register, May 1, 1896.

<sup>12</sup> Registration Book of the Board of Pharmacy of Indian Territory.

<sup>13</sup> Huff's obituary was published in Purcell Register, November 3, 1905. After his brother Alexander purchased the store, it became known as the A. B. Campbell Drug Store. *Ibid.*, June 15, 1906.

<sup>14</sup> Activities of George and Charley Jones in 1888 were reported in Purcell Register, May 19, 1888; *ibid.*, June 23, 1888; *ibid.*, July 7, 1888; *ibid.*, July 28, 1888; *ibid.*, August 18, 1888. The Farmer's Alliance of Pontotoc County report was published in Purcell Register, October 6, 1888.

<sup>15</sup> Biographical information about the Jones brothers was obtained from United States census records; Purcell Register, November 20, 1890; *ibid.*, April 3, 1903; *ibid.*, July 16, 1936; *ibid.*, November 26, 1936; Joyce Rex (Editor), McClain County, Oklahoma, History and Heritage, Volume 1 (Purcell, McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1986): 148-149; *ibid.*, Volume 3: 157-158; and Rex Francis Harlow and Victor Emmanuel Harlow, Makers of Government in Oklahoma, (Oklahoma City, Harlow Publishing Company, 1930): 394.

<sup>16</sup> Purcell Register, November 22, 1890; *ibid.*, October 28, 1892; The Purcell Enquirer, February 7, 1895; Purcell Register, October 5, 1900.

<sup>17</sup> News of the closure of Jones Drug Store in Purcell was published in Purcell Register, April 4, 1902; The Chickasaw Enterprise (Pauls Valley), April 10, 1902; and The Dallas Morning News, April 3, 1902. The purchase of the Jones soda fountain by B. C. Clark was reported in Purcell Register, June 13, 1902. The respective obituaries for George and Charley Jones were published in Purcell Register, July 16, 1936, and November 26, 1936.

<sup>18</sup> Biographical information about J. M. Steade was obtained from United States census records; H. F. O'Beirne, Leaders and Leading Men of the Indian Territory. (Chicago, American Publishers Association, 1891): 66; Samuel F. Black, San Diego County California. (Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913): 223-224; J. M. Guinn, Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California. (Chicago, Chapman Publishing Company, 1902): 390, 393; and the Rootsweb.com family file of Janet Trimbur.

<sup>19</sup> The partnership arrangements between J. M. Steade and L. R. Sullivant were reported in Purcell Register, September

22, 1888; September 29, 1888; October 13, 1888; and November 10, 1888.

<sup>20</sup> Biographical information about A. A. Dunn was obtained from United States census records; H. F. O'Beirne, Leaders and Leading Men of the Indian Territory. (Chicago, American Publishers Association, 1891): 34-35 and 87; Muskogee Phoenix, August 16, 1888; Purcell Register, March 30, 1893; and the Rootsweb.com family file of James Harris.

<sup>21</sup> The partnership arrangements between A. A. Dunn and J. M. Steade were reported in The Territorial Topic (Purcell), February 6, 1890; *ibid.*, March 6, 1890; Purcell Register, January 10, 1891; *ibid.*, January 24, 1891.

<sup>22</sup> Joe Childs was announced as a partner in Purcell Register, November 8, 1890, and advertisements for the drug store started using the name of Dunn, Steade & Company.

<sup>23</sup> Biographical information about J. S. Childs was obtained from United States census records; Joyce Rex (Editor), McClain County, Oklahoma, History and Heritage, Volume 3 (Purcell, McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1986): 127-128; Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association, 7 (April, 1915): 376; Paul W. H. Dewitz (Editor), Notable Men of Indian Territory at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century, 1904-1905. (Muskogee, Southwestern Historical Company, 1905): 113; Purcell Tribune, February 22, 1907; and Purcell Register, January 28, 1915.

<sup>24</sup> The partnership between J. M. Steade and J. S. Childs was reported to be dissolved and Adolph Thill continued as drug clerk in the store in Purcell Register, March 6, 1891. Westbrook came to Purcell to work for Childs in July of 1891. *Ibid.*, July 17, 1891.

<sup>25</sup> Changes in drug store ownership by W. H. Reed and J. J. Wiggs were found in Purcell Register, July 15, 1892; *ibid.*, February 23, 1893; *ibid.*, March 30, 1893; *ibid.*, May 19, 1893; *ibid.*, December 8, 1893; The Territorial Topic (Purcell), January 12, 1893; and *ibid.*, August 11, 1893.

<sup>26</sup> The move of J. M. Steade to Cincinnati was reported in Purcell Register, October 7, 1892.

<sup>27</sup> Biographical information about J. M. Remington was obtained from United States census records; Portrait and Biographical Record of Oklahoma. (Chicago, Chapman Publishing Company, 1901): 606-607; Joseph B. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright, Oklahoma; A History of the State and Its People. (New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1929): 811-812; Purcell Register, November 8, 1890; The Shawnee Daily News-Herald, December 8, 1914; *ibid.*, December 11, 1914; and Daily Oklahoman, December 9, 1914.

<sup>28</sup> Changes in drug store ownership by J. M. Remington were found in The Territorial Topic (Purcell), August 1, 1889; *ibid.*, December 5, 1889; *ibid.*, January 30, 1890; *ibid.*, February 6, 1890. E. M. Whitney opened his own drug store in Perry, Oklahoma Territory, soon after the opening of the Cherokee Outlet in 1893 and later moved



to Kansas City. ERA and Hayes Druggists Directories; Missouri Death Certificate for Whitney.

<sup>29</sup> J. M. Remington's moves from Purcell to Lexington and the dissolution of his partnership with Solon Curtice were reported in *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), November 28, 1889; *Purcell Register*, November 8, 1890; *ibid.*, November 22, 1890; *ibid.*, December 13, 1890; *ibid.*, May 15, 1891; and *ibid.*, May 22, 1891.

<sup>30</sup> Minutes of the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy; Carl K. Buckner, *The First Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy. II. The Eight Day Session*. *Oklahoma Pharmacist* 71 (Fall, 2003): 10-14; Remington pharmacy application in Archives Division, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City; list of past presidents of the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association at <http://opha.com/AboutOPhA/PastPresidents.aspx>. Grant A. Jones, a pharmacist working for Rem in Lexington received pharmacist certificate number 23 after his appearance in February of 1891 before the Oklahoma Territory Board of Pharmacy.

<sup>31</sup> The moves by J. M. Remington from Lexington to Tecumseh were reported in *Purcell Register*, September 18, 1891; *ibid.*, October 2, 1891; *The Lexington Leader*, October 17, 1891; *ibid.*, November 7, 1891; *ibid.*, November 14, 1891; *ibid.*, November 21, 1891; *ibid.*, November 28, 1891; *Purcell Register*, January 1, 1892; and *ibid.*, January 8, 1892. Locations for Remington in Perry, Chandler, Shawnee, and Oklahoma City were documented by respective notices in *Meyer Brothers Druggist*, 14 (December, 1893): 302; *ibid.*, 20 (October, 1899): 22; *ibid.*, 21 (April, 1900): 30; *The Daily Times-Journal* (Oklahoma City), August 21, 1901. An obituary for Rem can be found in *The Shawnee Daily News-Herald*, December 8, 1914.

<sup>32</sup> Biographical information about Solon Curtice was obtained from United States census records; Joyce Rex (Editor), *McClain County, Oklahoma, History and Heritage*, Volume 1 (Purcell, McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1986): 116-117; and Joyce A. Rex, *Purcell Register*, July 14, 1983.

<sup>33</sup> *The Territorial Topic*, February 20, 1890; *Purcell Register*, September 21, 1894; *ibid.*, *Purcell Enquirer*, May

23, 1895; *Purcell Register*, June 7, 1895; *Registration Book of the Board of Pharmacy of Indian Territory*; Solon and Eva Curtice pharmacy applications in Archives Division, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City.

<sup>34</sup> Destruction by the Purcell fire and moves of Solon Curtice afterward were reported in *Purcell Register*, November 22, 1895; *Purcell Enquirer*, November 21, 1895; *Purcell Register*, November 29, 1895; *Purcell Enquirer*, December 5, 1895; *Purcell Register*, December 13, 1895; *ibid.*, Jan 3, 1896; and *ibid.*, September 15, 1898. Solon Curtice's purchase of Masterman's store was reported in *The El Reno Democrat*, April 2, 1896, and *Purcell Register*, April 3, 1896. The move of the drug stock from El Reno to Purcell was reported in *Purcell Register*, May 1, 1896, and *The El Reno Democrat*, May 7, 1896.

<sup>35</sup> The sale of the Curtice drug to Baird and Stone was reported in *Purcell Register*, June 17, 1909 and July 1, 1909. Obituaries for Eva and Solon Curtice were published in *Purcell Register*, October 19, 1911, and *The Edmond Sun*, May 9, 1918, respectively. The purchase of the Curtice Drug in Edmond by W. R. Sieg was reported in *The Edmond Sun*, August 29, 1918.

<sup>36</sup> Biographical information about Adolph Thill was obtained from United States census records and the Rootsweb.com family file of Janet Trimbur. Thill's drug store employment in various places was reported in *Purcell Register*, October 11, 1890; *ibid.*, October 18, 1890; *ibid.*, March 6, 1891; *ibid.*, May 15, 1891; *ibid.*, June 3, 1892; and *ibid.*, July 1, 1892.

<sup>37</sup> *The Lexington Leader*, September 10, 1892, and *Purcell Register*, September 16, 1892, reported Thill's opening in Lexington. The Lexington fire that destroyed his store was reported in *Purcell Register*, June 30, 1893. The Palace Drug Store opening was reported in *The Territorial Topic* (Purcell), September 14, 1893, and *Purcell Register*, October 6, 1893. Losses to Thill in the 1895 fire were reported in *Purcell Enquirer*, November 21, 1895, and *Purcell Register*, November 22, 1895.

<sup>38</sup> Thill's activities after the 1895 fire were reported in *Purcell Register* issues on March 6, 1896, April 10, 1896, April 24, 1896, July 29, 1905, and March 28, 1907.